

# PURE FACT SHEET

## Parents' Rights

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### YES PARENTS - YOU HAVE RIGHTS!

In the U.S., we have a variety of rights from a variety of sources.

Parents have a lot of rights as **individuals** and **special rights** as parents of school children.

#### BASIC CIVIL RIGHTS and CONSTITUTIONAL PROTECTIONS

- ▶ Your children have the right to a **free and appropriate education**. (Illinois)
- ▶ You have the right to **equal protection** under the law, which means that laws and policies must be applied equally and fairly. (U.S.)
- ▶ You have a right to your **property** (this includes the right to a free education) which cannot be taken away without **due process**. (U.S.)

#### U.S. FEDERAL LAW

- ▶ You have the right to inspect, to challenge, and to keep confidential your child's **school records**.
- ▶ Your children with special needs have the right to **special education**.
- ▶ If your school receives No Child Left Behind (Federal Title 1) funds, you have the right to join a **parent advisory council** (PAC) which helps plan, review, and monitor NCLB programs and expenditures. You also have a right to observe in your child's classroom.

#### ILLINOIS STATE LAW

- ▶ Under the School Reform Act, Chicago parents have the right to be a candidate for **the local school council** (LSC), and to **vote** in LSC elections. You have the right to attend LSC meetings and, at least twice a year, to speak at these meetings.
- ▶ LSCs may grant the use of **school facilities** when not otherwise needed; policies for use of the building cannot discriminate.
- ▶ You have the right to enter your child's school under **school visitor** policies which must be applied equitably.
- ▶ If your child has limited proficiency in English, the child has a right to **bilingual education**, and you have the right to participate in a **bilingual parent advisory council**.

#### CHICAGO BOARD OF EDUCATION POLICIES

- ▶ Under the **Uniform Discipline Code**, you have the right to information about your child's progress including a conference with the teacher and/or principal, the right to participate in school activities, the right to be notified of all disciplinary actions taken by the school and the right to appeal school decisions.
- ▶ Under the **promotion policy**, you have a right to timely notification if your child may not be promoted to the next grade, and the right to a review of a decision not to promote your child.

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